

**REMARKS**

This submission is in response to the Official Action dated August 24, 2004. Claims 1, 8, 9, and 21 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-21 are pending. Reconsideration of the above identified application, in view of the above amendments and the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5, 7-13, 15, and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,501,020 to Grant et al. ("Grant") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,326,547 to Saxby et al. ("Saxby"). Claims 6 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grant in view of Saxby as applied to claims 5 and 10 above and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,169,100 to Milicent et al. ("Milicent"). Claims 17, 18, 20, and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grant in view of Saxby and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,951,082 to DiBiagio et al. ("DiBiagio"). Claim 19 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grant in view of Saxby in view of U DiBiagio as applied to claim 17 above and further in view of Milicent.

The present invention relates to a flexible wiring and tubing carrier for slide-out rooms including an elongated strip of material with one end that is pivotally connected to the slide-out room or the vehicle. The carrier also includes a retainer feature for connecting line members, e.g., electrical cables, relative to the strip.

The Examiner states that Grant discloses a cable support assembly 10 for slide-out shelves that includes a cable management apparatus 40 with a flexible support member 42 having a first end 46 anchored to one end of a slide member 24 at one side of the shelf 22 and a second end 48 anchored to a fixed mounting bracket 28 on the opposite side of the shelf 22. The Examiner acknowledges that Grant does not disclose that the flexible support member 42 includes an end that is pivotably mounted to the structure, but states that Saxby discloses a strip that is pivotally mounted to a structure and that it would be obvious to one skilled in the art to modify Grant in view of Saxby to pivotably mount one end of the flexible support member 42. Fig. 2 of Saxby shows a cable management system 100 including at least three arms 202, 204,




excessively. Second, Grant discloses that it is possible to detach this end 48 of the flexible support member 42 to temporarily attach an intermediate portion of the flexible support member 42 to the belt mounting plate 32, as shown in Fig. 4. This adjustment would not be possible using the hinged joints taught by Saxby. Hence, there is no motivation to modify Grant's flexible support member in view of Saxby to obtain the present invention. A *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been established. Claim 10 also sets forth the feature of "a second end of said strip being pivotally connected to said stationary structure," and claim 17 sets forth a pivot pin "to pivotally connect said second end of said strip to said vehicle structure." Claims 11-16 and 18-20 are dependent on claims 10 and 17 and are therefore also patentable for at least the same reasons.

Based on the foregoing, the rejections of claims 1-21 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) should be withdrawn, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

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